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## GORDON MORRIS' LAST MONTH AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MACo Executive Director C. Gordon Morris will be stepping down as Executive Director effective July 1, 2005. Morris has been Executive Director since February 1984. Morris stated that this change will enable him to focus on two proposals for the two MACo insurance Trusts--Workers' Compensation and Property & Casualty.

The first proposed project is to bring the administration of insurance claims in-house as MACo employees funded by the Trusts. Currently the Trusts contract for claims administration services with "alternative service concepts", a Tennessee-based claims management service.

The second project, if approved by the Trustees, would involve the design and construction of a new office building to house the claims staff (5 employees) and to rent to legal services which represents the Trusts in contested claims (4 employees).

Morris stated, "I look forward to this opportunity to close out my tenure with the Association by successfully bringing claims in-house and overseeing the building project, if approved. I have enjoyed this position and I think we have accomplished many advancements for county government during my ten-

ure. What better way to end over 23 years of dedication to county government than by undertaking these new and exciting projects?" He indicated that this step would facilitate his own plans to retire July 1, 2006.

Beverly Gibson, long-time former MACo Assistant Director, commented, "I spent from February 1984 to July 1998 working with Gordon. He has been a great team leader who took an unfocused, fractured, bickering organization, healed the rifts and brought all the counties together. Through his direction, Montana counties established a firm place in the State political universe."

Current county commissioners who were serving when Morris was hired include Barbara Evans, Missoula County (1977), Bill Tande, Daniels County (1979); David Miller, Wheatland County (1981), Art Kleinjan, Blaine County and Mike Hutchin, Lake County (1983).

Current Assistant Director L. Harold Blattie will serve as Acting Executive Director until a new Director is hired January 1, 2006.

Morris--1984



Morris--2004



## BASE SALARY BY CLASS OF COUNTY

### CLASS 1 A

CASCADE COUNTY	41,864
FLATHEAD COUNTY	53,865
GALLATIN COUNTY	50,593
LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY	50,356
RAVALLI COUNTY	39,844

### CLASS 1 B

BIG HORN COUNTY	33,247
BUTTE-SILVER BOW	38,792
FALLON COUNTY	35,194
HILL COUNTY	34,644 **
LAKE COUNTY	38,279
PHILLIPS COUNTY	28,692 **
RICHLAND COUNTY	36,466
ROOSEVELT COUNTY	32,960 **
ROSEBUD COUNTY	36,912

### CLASS 2

CARBON COUNTY	37,090
GLACIER COUNTY	32,991 **
LINCOLN COUNTY	35,101
MADISON COUNTY	34,356
PARK COUNTY	39,844
SANDERS COUNTY	34,180
SHERIDAN COUNTY	28,804
STILLWATER COUNTY	35,680
VALLEY COUNTY	28,519

### CLASS 3

CHOUTEAU COUNTY	33,128
DAWSON COUNTY	38,273
FERGUS COUNTY (Charter)	31,397
JEFFERSON COUNTY	37,884
TOOLE COUNTY	32,078

### CLASS 4

CUSTER COUNTY	32,612
PONDERA COUNTY	32,862
SWEET GRASS COUNTY	28,500 **
TETON COUNTY	30,363

### CLASS 5

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE	28,867
CARTER COUNTY	27,295
GRANITE COUNTY	30,310

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 8	MACo Board of Directors; MACo; 10:00 am
June 8	MACo JPA / JPIA Joint Trustees; ~2:00 pm
June 8	MACo Executive Committee and MEDA; Dinner
June 9	MACo Urban Counties; MACo; 9:00 am
June 9-10	MACo Economic Development Committee; Butte
June 14-17	MSPOA Convention; Bozeman
June 14	Public Lands / Wilderness; Lewistown; 1:00 pm
June 15	Oil, Gas & Coal Counties Annual meeting; Lewistown
June 15	Governor's Workers' Comp. Conference
June 17	JPA / JPIA Defense Counsel Retreat; MACo
June 20-23	District Court Clerk Convention; Scobey

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 15-19	NACo Annual Conference; Honolulu, HI
July 20-22	County Attorneys Association; Fairmont
Sept. 12-16	Treasurers Conference; Butte
Sept. 19-23	Clerk / Records Conference; Butte
Sept. 25-28	MACo Annual Conference; Billings
Dec. 1-2	Joint JPA / JPIA Trustee Retreat
February 13-17	MACo Midwinter Meeting; Great Falls

JUDITH BASIN COUNTY	29,847
LIBERTY COUNTY	27,162
MUSSELSHELL COUNTY	28,606 **
POWELL COUNTY	28,871
WHEATLAND COUNTY	25,957

### CLASS 6

DANIELS COUNTY	31,885
GARFIELD COUNTY	24,788
GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY	21,081
McCONE COUNTY	28,847
MEAGHER COUNTY	24,729
MINERAL COUNTY	25,000
POWDER RIVER COUNTY	29,550
PRAIRIE COUNTY	24,610 **

### CLASS 7

PETROLEUM COUNTY	26,501
TREASURE COUNTY	23,006

\*\* County class changes from FY 05 to FY 06

	FY 2005	FY 2006
Blaine	2	1B
Glacier	3	2
Hill	2	1B
Musselshell	6	5
Phillips	2	1B
Prairie	7	6
Roosevelt	2	1B
Sweet Grass	5	4
Wibaux	5	4

## COMPENSATION BOARD ISSUES

### by Harold Blattie, MACo Assistant Director

#### Are Boards of County Commissioners obligated to adopt the recommendations of the Compensation Board?

The short answer is "No."

The Board of County Commissioners is not obligated to adopt the recommendations of the compensation board, even though two commissioners, when serving as members of the compensation board, voted in support.

Here is a longer version:

The actions of a compensation board are separate and distinct from those of the County Commission. If the required two commissioners approve the recommendation as compensation board members, it does not obligate them to vote the same when they are acting on the recommendation as county commissioners. Two commissioners can vote while acting as compensation board members to support the recommendation going to the county commission. This will satisfy the requirements of the statute so that a recommendation can go forward to the county commission.

Then, when acting on the recommendation itself, either or both of the commissioners could vote for or against the recommendation. If this change in vote causes the county commission not to adopt the recommendation of the compensation board, the issue would then return to the compensation board for reconsideration. Presumably, a subsequent recommendation would be put forth and the same process would

be used until a recommendation is approved by a majority of the county commissioners.

The county commission, if failing to ratify a recommendation of the compensation board, does not have the authority to adopt something other than the recommendation of the compensation board. The bottom line is that both bodies have to agree and recommendation must have the support of at least two commissioners in both bodies. *(Note: This provision does not apply to counties with self-governing powers.)*

The compensation board recommendations are applicable only to county officials' salaries. Setting salaries for officials also determines salaries for a number of deputies. The Board of Commissioners, collective bargaining agreements or other specific provisions of law determine all other employee salaries.

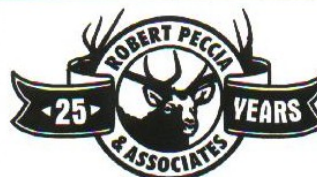
We have received questions about the compensation board's role in setting the employer's contribution for health insurance. The compensation board may consider the value of the benefit but cannot specify the county's contribution toward the overall premium. That amount is set either by the Board of Commissioners or is a provision of a collective bargaining agreement.

Finally, meetings of the compensation board are, in fact, hearings. They must be properly noticed pursuant to 7-1-2121 M.C.A. *"The county compensation board shall hold hearings annually for the purpose of reviewing the compensation paid to county officers."*

#### ENTITLEMENT SHARE PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

YEAR	COUNTIES' TOTAL	GROWTH RATE
FY 2004	30,415,967	
FY 2005	31,231,115	3.01%
FY 2006	32,008,769	2.34
FY 2007	32,847,399	2.96%

#### PLEASE SUPPORT MACo SUPPORTERS



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## SPRING DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### **DISTRICTS 1, 2 AND 3**

**Joan Stahl, Rosebud County, Chair**

MACo Officer Nominations: Mark Rehbein, Richland County, for 2nd Vice President; Bill Nyby, Sheridan County, for Fiscal Officer

Workforce Development: Tom Hayes, MJTP, explained one-stop centers and the interest to promote tele-work or e-commerce.

WIR Conference in Tacoma, WA: Connie Eissinger is to be installed as WIR President.

Land Banking and Historic Rights of Way: Counties need to get all rights-of-way to county roads documented and recorded.

Scam Alert: Persons may try to present bogus documents to the Clerk/Recorder Office to clear mortgages on property.

### **DISTRICTS 4 AND 5**

**Art Kleinjan, Blaine County, Chair**

MACo Officer Nominations: Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County, for 2nd Vice President Allan Underdal, Toole County, for Fiscal Officer

EITC Poverty Project: Peggy Beltrone reported on the success of the Project and requested that North Central Montana counties meet with the foundation to discuss other potential anti-poverty projects.

Montana State Land Banking is the sale of isolated, under-producing land to obtain higher returns for school trust lands, as reported by Clive Rooney and Gary Williams, DNRC. They also discussed the extended time limit for historic

right-of-way purchases by counties and recommended public-private partnerships for the purchase of rights-of-ways.

### **DISTRICTS 10 AND 11**

**Paddy Trusler, Lake County, Chair**

MACo Officer Nomination: Jean Curtiss, Missoula County, for 2nd Vice President

Legislation Review: HB 2 includes county attorney salaries funded at true 50%.

**Counties have to get the salary amount into State as soon as compensation board meets.**

Secondary Roads: Wayne Noem, Planner for Secondary Roads Projects, Montana Department of Transportation, handed out the Status of Projects. **Counties need to turn in their new secondary road priority list.** Projects on those lists could be completed "very definitely possibly maybe 5-10 years out". MDOT will pay 75% of cost to relocate fiber optics.

Wildfire Control: Pat Cross, DNRC, discussed and handed out "Quick Facts on Wildfire Restrictions and Closures in Montana".

### **DISTRICTS 8, 9 AND 12**

**Ed Tinsley, Lewis and Clark County, Chair**

Secondary Roads: Wayne Noem, MDOT Secondary Roads, is using state funds to help advance secondary road projects. Funds are disbursed for road repairs depending on safety concerns, design of road, traffic and maintenance problems. Years ago, counties took over gravel secondary roads and the state took over paved secondary roads.

County Roads: New law will not allow the county to abandon a county road that provides access to public lands or public waters unless the access is provided other ways.

Land Banking: The program authorizes selling some state lands (not more than 100,000 acres sold until 2009) that are hard to keep up or use. Nominations are taken from lessees, not landowners.

### PLEASE SUPPORT MACo SUPPORTERS



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Billings, MT – 406.245.5499

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Lee &  
Jackson**  
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and Planners



## CONTACTING OUR CONGRESSMEN

According to Randy Vogel, state director for Representative Denny Rehberg, email is a much more efficient way than the postal service to contact anyone in Congress.

"If you write a letter to Washington DC, the congressman may get it in a month or two. If it's mailed to DC, it goes back to Ohio where they scan it, cut off a corner to check for powder, irradiate it and whatever else they do to it.

It's really frustrating. We get complaints from people who say 'I sent a letter three weeks ago!' " Vogel said.

He recommends two other methods that are more efficient:

1. Send email or contact the congressmen through their congressional websites; or
2. Send hard-copy correspondence to the contact offices within Montana. From there the letter will be shipped directly to the congressional offices.

BAUCUS: [max@baucus.senate.gov](mailto:max@baucus.senate.gov)

<http://baucus.senate.gov>

BURNS: [conrad\\_burns@burns.senate.gov](mailto:conrad_burns@burns.senate.gov)

<http://burns.senate.gov>

REHBERG: [denny.rehberg@mail.house.gov](mailto:denny.rehberg@mail.house.gov)

<http://www.house.gov/rehberg>

## NUMBERS BRUSH-UP

1. Do they have a 4th of July in England?
2. How many birthdays does the average man have?
3. Some months have 31 days; how many have 28?
4. How many outs are there in an inning of baseball?
5. Is it legal for a man in Montana to marry his widow's sister?
6. If there are 3 apples left on the tree and you take away two, how many do you have?
7. A doctor gives you three pills telling you to take one every half hour. How many minutes would the pills last?
8. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but 9 die. How many are left?
9. How many animals of each sex did Moses take on the ark?
10. How many two-cent stamps are there in a dozen?

(answers on next page)



EVERYONE AND HIS DOG ARE GETTING  
COUNTY PHOTO ID CARDS FROM MACo.

COUNTIES CAN REQUEST ID CARDS BY  
CONTACTING OLIN AT MACo

444-4360

[maco@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:maco@maco.cog.mt.us)

## INVITATION TO BID

The Beaverhead County Commission is requesting sealed bids for the purchase of an un-erected 100 ft. by 150 ft. steel building with 16 ft. side walls. All bids must be in a **sealed envelope** marked "**Steel Building Purchase Bid**". Bids are to be submitted by 5:00 p.m, Friday, June 10, 2005 to

Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder  
2 South Pacific Street, Cl. #3,  
Dillon, MT 59725

The bids will be opened 3:00 p.m. on June 13, 2005.

The Beaverhead County Commission reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and waive informalities as deemed in the best interest of Beaverhead County.

## PLEASE SUPPORT MACo SUPPORTERS

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5405 Momont Road



## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

### ANACONDA-DEER LODGE

**new** Chief Executive Gene Vuckovich  
 Commissioner Wayne Ternes  
 wcternes@aol.com  
 Commissioner Russ Bilodeau  
 replaces Paul Beausoleil  
 County Attorney Joan Borneman  
 phone 563-4019  
 email jborneman@onewest.net  
 Clerk of Court Susie McNeil no email

### BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

Commissioner  
 replaces Donna Sevalstad

### CARBON COUNTY

Sheriff Lance Bourquin  
 lbourquin@co.carbon.mt.us

### CARTER COUNTY

Attorney Richard Harkins  
 rrharkin@midrivers.com

### FERGUS COUNTY

Commissioner John Jensen  
 jccomp@tein.net

### GALLATIN COUNTY

Clerk and Recorder 582-3050  
**new** Treasurer Kim Buchanan  
 kbuchanan@co.gallatin.mt.us

### GLACIER COUNTY

Commissioner Michael DesRosier  
 mjdesr@yahoo.com  
**new** Public Administrator Tony Underwood

### GRANITE COUNTY

Commissioner  
 replaces Joann Huffsmith  
 Commissioner Suzanne Browning 288-3546  
 drm3546@blackfoot.net

### HILL COUNTY

Commissioner Kathy Bessette  
 bessettek@co.hill.mt.us

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Commission FAX 293-7057 (page 69)  
 Sheriff Daryl Anderson  
 jrust@lincolncountysomt.com

### McCONE COUNTY

Commission Office  
 mconeco@midrivers.com

### PARK COUNTY

**new** County Attorney Brett Linneweber

### PHILLIPS COUNTY

Commissioner Lesley Robinson--delete email

### PONDERA COUNTY

Justice of Peace Audrey Brown  
 abrown2@mt.gov

### SANDERS COUNTY

After July 1, change all  
[metnet.state.mt.us](mailto:metnet.state.mt.us) email addresses to [metnet.mt.gov](mailto:metnet.mt.gov)  
 Clerk of Court Dianne Rummel  
 dirummel@mt.gov

### TETON COUNTY

Commissioner Joseph Dellwo  
 jdellwo@3rivers.net

### TREASURE COUNTY

Sheriff Wayne Robison  
 tcco@rangeweb.net

### VALLEY COUNTY

Sheriff Glen Meier  
 vcsheff@valleycountysheff.net

### WHEATLAND COUNTY

County Attorney Linda Hickman  
 wcatty@mtintouch.net

### Pages x and xi

#### FY 06 COUNTY CLASS

Blaine	1B
Glacier	2
Hill	1B
Musselshell	5
Phillips	1B
Prairie	6
Roosevelt	1B
Sweet Grass	4
Wibaux	4

#### ANSWERS TO NUMBER BRUSH-UP, pg. 5

1. Yes, it comes after the 3rd of July.
2. Just one
3. 12, all of them!
4. 6, 3 per side
5. It could be, but he's dead.
6. 2--you took them, remember?
7. 60--start with the 1st pill, 30 minutes later take the 2nd; 30 minutes later take the 3rd.
8. 9
9. 0--Moses didn't have an ark, Noah did.
10. 12

# COUNTY NEWS

## COUNTY BUSINESS

**PARK COUNTY** Attorney Tara Depuy has resigned. The new Park County Attorney is Brett Linneweber; His email address is attorney@parkcounty.org

**RICHLAND COUNTY** employees participated in "denim days" every Monday for six weeks. They were allowed to wear jeans on those days in exchange for an item to be donated to the food bank.

Following the resignation of the newly-elected Chief Executive because he did not agree with the current budget, **ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY** has been faced with layoffs and budget slashes to address an apparent over-projection of revenue by \$800,000. Department heads were asked to cut spending by 21% for the last three months of the fiscal year.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**RAVALLI COUNTY** has a new Dust Abatement Program to offer cost incentives to residents to sign up for an application of magnesium chloride on county roads.

**BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY** has received two awards from the National Association of Environmental Professionals for restoring Silver Bow Creek. Beginning in 1998, a service district was formed to receive restoration grants for the cleanup, which involves moving massive amounts of earth and improving and restoring habitat.

**DAWSON COUNTY** is combining duties of the new mosquito district with the current weed district and its board.

**FALLON COUNTY's** cleanup of Baker Lake was temporarily halted while the Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the work that had taken place so far. The Commissioners are now applying through the Corps' jurisdiction process to continue the work.

**MISSOULA COUNTY** finally saw work begin on cleanup of Milltown Reservoir. The plan for excavating the sediments and removing Milltown Dam was finally approved, 23 years after the first identification of arsenic in Milltown's tap water. The removal of the dam may come as early as January 2006, followed by excavation of 2.6 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments--a two-year job.

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY** believes that Idaho's cloud seeding program is wringing moisture out of the sky before it can reach Montana. The County wants the State to ask the courts for an injunction for Idaho to stop seeding clouds.

**YELLOWSTONE COUNTY** received a donated 320-acre stretch of land along the Yellowstone River to become a county park.

**STILLWATER COUNTY** citizens are petitioning for a reversal of a Department of Revenue decision to allocate gross proceeds and metal mines license tax monies to **SWEET GRASS COUNTY**. The mine is located in Stillwater County, but the ore comes from within Sweet Grass County.

**WHEATLAND COUNTY** will have the new Judith Gap Wind Farm, which projects tax revenue of \$40 Million over the 40-year project life and eventually provide 12 permanent employment positions.

## LAND USE & SUBDIVISIONS

**FLATHEAD COUNTY's** four unincorporated communities are implementing surveys and developing neighborhood plans for growth and development. Fifteen plans are being developed to present to the County.

**GALLATIN COUNTY** continues its effort to close a loophole in the subdivision law which allows land owners to subdivide remainders of parcels without review. State law allows parcels of 160 acres or larger to be divided without review. The leftover land, or "remainder", is to be retained by the landowner, but nothing in state law bars the remainders from being sold.

**LAKE COUNTY**, the town of Ronan and the Salish-Kootenai Tribes collaborated to purchase 62 acres of sub-dividable land near Ronan to develop for public use. The north half will be owned by the Tribes and the south half will be owned by a partnership between the town and the county.

**GLACIER COUNTY** has faced local concerns following the purchase of a long-time family farm by two Hutterite Colonies. Neither the Blackfoot Tribe nor local citizens were able to compete in the bidding for the two large parcels of the ranch. Five Hutterite Colonies now own 14% of the land in the County.

**LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY** made line-by-line revisions of its 360 page subdivision rules. This was the first revision since 1980. The new regulations took effect in February and covered fire protection fees, water supply requirements, ridgeline construction, cluster development, outdoor lighting and tougher road standards.

# The Life and Times of CTEP

Depending on how you count the years, the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) is now about 13 years old. CTEP has flourished through the years, and is very popular with Montana's local and tribal governments.

## The Early Years

CTEP was developed in 1992 through collaboration with MDT, the Montana Association of County Officials and the Montana League of Cities and Towns. The ensuing tri-party agreement established a unique process whereby the funding that must be spent on enhancements in the Federal-aid program (about \$5 million annually) would largely be allocated to local governments for eligible projects selected by local officials. This approach is significantly different than transportation enhancement programs in other states where communities must apply for funds and the state picks the projects.

The records show that the first CTEP project applications in 1992-93 were a railroad depot rehabilitation in Harlowton, landscaping of city parks in Red Lodge and for pedestrian and bicycle paths in Great Falls and Missoula. Eventually, nearly every eligible local government in Montana applied. There are a few local governments that have never applied—however, they have donated funds to other local agencies for projects.



*This landscaping project at a Red Lodge city park was one of CTEP's early endeavors.*

## The Wonder Years

The wonder years for CTEP happened in the mid-1990's. As the program grew solid roots, local governments became familiar with the ins and outs of CTEP. In the three years from 1994 through 1996, more than 200 project applications were submitted, and many of the earliest projects were completed. Some changes to the program were made in 1998 with the passage of the TEA-21 transportation bill, including direct allocation of funds to Montana's seven Indian tribal governments, but the program had been established and was rolling in high gear.

## The Present and Future

Although MDT moved CTEP from its Planning Division to the Engineering Division in late 2003, the form and function of the program have continued without significant change. New project applications have averaged about 35 per year for the past five years, with nearly \$4.5 million spent annually on design, construction, and administration of the projects. Although there are twelve eligible

categories for CTEP funds, more than 95 percent of all projects in Montana have included one or more of the "big four" categories: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, Landscaping and Scenic Beautification, Historic Preservation, and Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Facilities.

We occasionally get questions from local and tribal governments about the future of CTEP—and we can only respond that Congress is not considering any changes to the federal transportation enhancement set-aside requirement. Montana's Community Transportation Enhancement Program continues to have broad support at the state, local, and tribal level. That said, CTEP is a function of the Federal-aid highway program funds Montana receives, and future federal program levels remain under debate in Congress.

For more information about CTEP, contact Mike Wherley (444-4221, [mwherley@mt.gov](mailto:mwherley@mt.gov)) or Ross Tervo (444-9209, [rtervo@mt.gov](mailto:rtervo@mt.gov)), or visit the CTEP Web site at <http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/ctep>.

## CTEP PROJECT STATISTICS 1992 through 2004

Projects Completed	301
Projects Currently in Design Phase	79
Projects Currently in Construction	90
Total Projects	470
Projects Withdrawn by Local Agencies	66



## **BIG BOX STORES and ZONING ORDINANCES**

When Wal-Mart announced plans to build a massive outlet in a small town in Maryland, Calvert County commissioners passed a zoning ordinance to thwart those plans by limiting the size of any store to 75,000 square feet.

So the company came up with a way to circumvent the store-size limitations. Wal-Mart built two adjacent stores—one 74,998 square feet and the other 22,689 square feet.

Hailey, Idaho, had also passed a size-limit ordinance but grew concerned about similar circumventions. A nearby town is home to two large Home Depot stores connected by a breezeway. So, Hailey revised its ordinance to limit the size not only of individual stores, but also any collection of stores that share the same owner and are located within 800 feet of each other.

from GOVERNING, by Alan Greenblatt  
page 74 of Vol. 18, No. 8

## **MACo JPIA Property & Casualty Insurance for Public Entities**

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## **National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event June 1 – July 4, 2005 Fort Benton / Great Falls**



The Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial began January 18, 2003 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Montana has been selected to host two of the fifteen National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Events.

The first, Explore! The Big Sky, commemorates the fateful decision at the Marias River, celebrates the portage end in Great Falls and honors the cultures of the Indian tribes along the Lewis and Clark trail. The second event, Clark on the Yellowstone, is July 22 – 26, 2006 at Pompey's Pillar near Billings.

Explore! The Big Sky begins June 1 and continues 34 days through July 4, offering events:

- ♦ To immerse in the traditional ways of the plains Indians through Indian villages and cultural displays presented by Montana tribes
- ♦ To watch Indian athletes compete in horse and canoe races or games of skill and accuracy (or participate in these time-honored games)
- ♦ To enjoy an opera based on the Blackfeet legend of Scarface
- ♦ To hear Rita Coolidge in concert celebrating the music of our Nation's tribes

♦ To relive the daily struggles of travel in the swift Missouri River with history interpreters demonstrating camp life

♦ To gain special insights about the Expedition members with lectures by authors Dr. James Ronda, Dr. Gary Moulton and Dr. John Allen

♦ To view special exhibits with artists and docents at eight cultural museums in Great Falls

♦ To lunch with the Corps on the riverbanks in Fort Benton or at the great falls of the Missouri River

♦ To watch a ballet based on the Lewis and Clark story

♦ To hear old-time fiddlers reviving the sounds of the 1800's or attend concerts featuring guest musicians

♦ To celebrate the Corps of Discovery's second Independence Day along the trail with a statewide parade, community picnic, fireworks and special music.

Plan your own expedition by visiting the event website at [www.explorethebigsky.org](http://www.explorethebigsky.org). Tickets are on sale now.

For more information about Clark on the Yellowstone in 2006, please go to the website at [clarkontheyellowstone.org](http://clarkontheyellowstone.org).

## **DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH**

### **How a 600-page book became a must-read in Montana**

from *GOVERNING*, May 2005, Vol. 18, No. 8

Can a thick volume examining societal disintegration all around the globe over 3,000 years have an impact on local politics in one American county in the 21st century? That's a question raised by *COLLAPSE*, the current best-seller by UCLA geographer Jared Diamond. Professor Diamond argues that many societies, from primitive Easter Island to ancient Mexico and modern Rwanda, failed because of environmental pressures and simple human short sightedness. He kicks off his book with a long look at Ravalli County, in the Bitterroot Valley of southwestern Montana, where he and a number of other well-to-do Californians have set up summer homes in recent years.

The area's traditional industries of mining, timber and apple orchards have all petered out. Ranching continues, but the spike in property costs threatens many operations. Diamond concludes that were it not for money being pumped into the valley from the federal government and out-of-staters, its "economy would already have collapsed." But his description of life in Ravalli County jibes with the way many people in the valley think. They fear that rapid growth threatens both the area's natural beauty and its ability to sustain an economy. Others worry that the book will have an impact, but in the wrong direction. "The people who don't want any growth at all are going to wave the book around and say, 'See, I told you so,'" says state Senator Rick Laible.

Ravalli County grew by 44% during the 1990s, and last November voters approved a countywide growth plan, with limits on future expansion. But the fight over the ordinances and regulations that will actually implement the plan is just now getting underway.

Author Diamond is scheduled to give a speech in the County next month. Sen. Laible says he's gotten calls from all over the country about *COLLAPSE*. He believes any book that prompts so much talk will make a valuable contribution to local discussions, even though he doesn't accept all of Diamond's conclusions himself. "Any debate that we have in regard to growth and growth issues is a good debate,"

## **NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) and PUBLIC LANDS STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **Mike Murray, Lewis and Clark County**

California's Sacramento County met all requirements for the 2006 WIR Conference location and was selected. Recent financial review of past conferences shows that the Utah convention made enough money to cover the loss in Wyoming.

The Mayor of Fairbanks asked for support of the All-Alaska Gasline Project. This project would ship benzine to Asia (highest profit gas), separate propane and butane for shipment to Mexico and sell what LPC (natural gas) is left to California or to interior US pipelines.

#### Land Management Subcommittee

Rebecca Watson, Assistant Secretary for Land & Minerals Management--Department of Interior, spoke on "concern for the environment" and why ANWAR drilling in Alaska is a good thing. She was very informative on geo-thermal and wind energy and how public interest in renewal energy has grown.

#### Public Lands Steering Committee

A proposal to change the Endangered Species Act includes the guideline that if a species is to be listed, a set number of the species must be given for when to de-list it.

Interior Policy Roundtable: The Administration's hard line is to limit and remove environmental protection for timber, clean water, and wilderness study areas and to sell government lands to the extent possible for development. (I left the meeting with a headache and need of mood changing beverage.)

In the General Session Gwen Ifill from PBS did a great job on the news and how networks present it. Rep Tom Davis presented the world through the eyes of Republican leadership. Sen. John McCain spoke well of our veterans and said he couldn't support more PILT or high-way funding.

I would give the Montana breakfast one more chance--with commitment from Max, Conrad and Denny that they will attend and use it for their staffs' benefit. This one was bleak.

## ONE-STOP LOCATION FOR SOURCES OF EXTERNAL FUNDING NACo Grants Clearinghouse

NACo has added one more excellent service to its member benefit list by creating a Grants Clearinghouse in the Members Only section of the NACo Web site ([www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)). The clearinghouse provides a one-stop location for external funding opportunities, including both federal and private grants.

The goal of the grants clearinghouse is to offer a service that lessens the burden and confusion of members by providing comprehensive and specific information and tools regarding federal and private sources of external funding.

The grants clearinghouse has three main features:

1. a searchable database of county eligible grants
2. a listing of county eligible grants that are currently accepting applications
3. email notification of newly announced grants.

1. The searchable database currently contains 260 grants that are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. All grants are screened for eligibility and appropriateness. New grants listed in the catalog are added to the database following the screening process.

2. However, not all grants listed in the database are currently funding programs or accepting applications. Although this is a limitation, the listing of all programs does enable counties to identify future potential funding sources and contact information for granting agencies and departments.

The clearinghouse also includes a Grants Listing Web page that features an up-to-date list of grants that are funding programs and accepting applications for which counties may apply. The information on the grants is updated using [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). In the future, the grants listing will include more private grants.

Another feature to be added will be samples of successful grant applications. The suc-

cessful applications should be on the Web site by the end of June.

3. The email notification feature enables members to learn about newly announced grants through regular emails. Members can sign up to receive grant notification based on specific areas of interest or they can receive notices of all newly announced grants. To receive this service, members should go to the Grants Clearinghouse and follow the prompts for signing up.

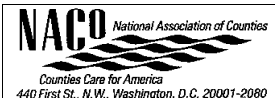
To get to the Grants Clearinghouse, go to the NACo Web site and click on the "Members Only" section on the right side of the page. To log into the Members Only section, type in your email address as your ID and then your county name as the Password. For example:

bob.smith@co.blue-earth.mn.us  
and then Blue Earth County. If you are not able to log in, your email address may not be in the NACo database. Contact Membership Coordinator Emily Landsman ([elandsma@naco.org](mailto:elandsma@naco.org)) and she can get it added.

This is truly a valuable resource – one that you should use. It is just one more way that NACo is adding value to your membership.

### We're Better than the Competition

- **RANKS #1 IN FIXED OPTIONS** by an independent consultant firm
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## GOAL OF NEW CD IS TO GUIDE TEENS' CHOICES

*From the TriCity Herald, by Genoa Sibold-Cohn*

A new CD about teenagers and some tough choices about alcohol is being developed in Washington State. In one scenario, a boy is left home alone with his mischievous best friend for the weekend. The two decide to have a party and drink vodka. The boy and his friend get intoxicated and are rushed to the emergency room for alcohol poisoning.

It's these consequences that producers of the scenario and similar videotaped short plays want middle school and high school students to see and understand. The scenarios are part of an interactive CD-ROM being developed by Washington State--Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel. The CD, People Learning About Destructive Decisions (PLADD),

also has scenarios on drinking and driving, date rape and domestic violence. The goal is to supply the CDs to schools and driver's education classes.

The scenarios are designed to teach the consequences of risky behavior by navigating through the CD and answering yes and no questions. Students can make it more personal by adding their names and their friend's names to the scenes.

Members of Washington State University and the University of Iowa groups collaborated in reviewing and suggesting changes.

So far, \$85,000 in donations have helped develop the project, but Blasdel still needs funding to complete the project.

When Blasdel thinks of the reasons to finish the CD and

get it out to students, 16-year-old Trent Skidmore of Moses Lake, Washington, comes to mind. Skidmore was killed in 1993 when a driver, with a blood alcohol content three times the legal limit and heading the wrong way, struck his car head-on. It was the first time Skidmore had been allowed to drive out of town to a football game.

One of the scenarios includes a re-enactment of that day. The Skidmore family, as part of the funeral for their son, asked for donations to the CD in lieu of flowers and also donated \$2,500 to the CD project. Other interested people can send donations to People Learning About Destructive Decisions, 1776 Fowler St., Suite 37, Richland, WA 99352.

### MACo News

Phone (406) 444-4380

Fax (406) 442-5238

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